(d) in what manner Government would protect the interests of the journalists and domestic newspapers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has allowed the publication of Indian edition of foreign news magazines by Indian entity(ies), with or without foreign investment, subject to certain conditions. The detailed guidelines in this regard are available on the website of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (***www.mib.nic.in***).

(c) The limit of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on publication of these magazines is 26%.

(d) The policy of allowing 26% foreign equity in Indian entities dealing with News and current affairs is already in vogue. The decision to allow publication of Indian edition of foreign news magazines is an extension of the existing policy of allowing publication of Indian editions of foreign magazines in non News and non current affairs sector and hence it will not affect the interest of the domestic print media. Adequate safeguards are provided in the aforementioned guidelines.

Welfare of Indian migrant labour

1172. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any mechanism to look to the welfare of Indian migrant labour working abroad;

(b) if so, the nodal agency therefor;

(c) whether the agency sends regular feedback/reports on the welfare of the Indian working abroad; and

(d) whether the concerned States from where the migrant labour had originally gone is informed about the matter and developments, if any?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was created in 2004, *inter-alia*, to look after the smooth emigration of Indian workers and also their welfare and protection. This mandate is realize in coordination with, *inter-alia*, the Indian Missions abroad, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Governments.

(d) The Ministry from time to time organizes consultation meetings with the State Governments on issues relating to overseas Indians. The Ministry coordinates with State Governments and refers cases to them from time to time for action against unscrupulous recruiting agents for violation of Emigration Act and other provisions of law, on receipt of complaints about exploitation of Indian workers abroad. The Indians Missions also liaise with the concerned State Governments to coordinate action at the time of en bloc amnesty schemes announced by Governments in Gulf countries, thus necessitating mass repatriations.